

Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves.

Localism and democracy are not served when a corporate headquarters decides to provide one side in local elections a louder voice than others. During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard. This is a gross misuse of public airwaves and if not illegal, should be. This is not democracy. This is corporate interests buying democracy and democracy expense. The statements made by right wing republicans is absurd at best that the media is liberal. What we have seen this election year, is the republican controlled airwaves illegally using the public airwaves to their benefit at the cost of democracy. If the FCC does not do something about this, companies like FOX, Sinclair and Pappas will own this country. Unfortunately with Michael Powell on the throne of the FCC, it appears that the public will continue to lose as he is not a man that believes in true democracy but only what democracy money can buy. Thank you.